29th January 1931]

Alleged distress of fishermen on the West Coast.

* 229-E Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that the fishing season on the West Coast is very bad and that the fishermen are suffering from acute distress;

(b) whether the Government have under consideration any proposals to alleviate the distress; and

(c) whether the Government have called for a report from the Director of Fisheries on the matter?

A.—(a) & (b) No.

(c) A report has been called for.

Reduction in the issue price of salt.

* 229-F Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state what the decision of the Government is in regard to the reduction in the issue price of salt as recommended by the Fisheries Committee?

A.—The hon Member is referred to the answer to his question No. 229-A.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Police

Alleged lathi charge on a picnic party at Peddapuram.

230 Q.—Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the police used a lathi charge against a picnic party on 21st December at Peddapuram, Godavari district;

(b) the circumstances under which this was done; and

(c) whether the Government have taken any action against those responsible for this?

A.—(a) & (b) The circumstances in which the police dispersed a gathering of Congress sympathisers at Peddapuram on 21st December 1930 were as follows:—

The Deputy Superintendent of Police, Cocanada, received information from the village authorities of Peddapuram that certain supporters of the civil disobedience movement had arranged to hold a meeting, under the guise of a picnic, in a garden in Peddapurkota village, just outside the area included in the orders under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, at which the future plan of Congress action in the East Godavari district was to be discussed and the return from jail of certain Satyagraha volunteers of that district celebrated. On arriving at the place the Deputy Superintendent of Police found a gathering of over 150 persons, the majority of whom were listening to Mr. B. Satyanarayana, Secretary,